it. But a few days ago I was much pleased to receive by mail the specimen now described, and agreeably surprised to find it an undetermined species.

He says: "Since I last wrote you, I have been able to procure four live specimens of the Dove, called 'Pea Dove' in my list; one of them died a day or two ago, and I send you the skin, which will serve to identify the bird."

On the label is "Pea Dove, ♀, Sp.? Caught alive at Fontenoy, St. Georges, Grenada, 16 Feb., 1884. Iris pale buff."

RECENT LITERATURE.

Stejneger on the American Turdidæ.*—The so-called 'family' Turdidæ is here taken in nearly its usually accepted sense, except that the Mimiæ, so frequently embraced within it, are excluded, leaving the group as here treated nearly equivalent to the Turdinæ of Mr. Seebohm's late monograph of the family.† Dr. Stejneger begins his memoir by sharply criticizing Mr. Seebohm's generic groups among the 'Turdinæ,' the construction of which he considers "very radical and opposed to commonly accepted views"; and states that his own paper "may be regarded as a reaction provoked by the arrangement proposed in the above mentioned work." Dr. Stejneger believes that the test "of color or pattern of color as the only character which indicates near relationship," as applied by Mr. Seebohm, is arbitrary and leads to inconsistent results; and he devotes several pages to 'showing up' some of these inconsistencies, and in pointing out that structural characters are much sounder indices of relationship. He believes that Professor Baird's arrangement of the American Thrushes, in his 'Review of American birds,' though presented 'sixteen to eighteen years ago,' 'is still the best treatment of the subject extant.' He modifies this arrangement, however, by throwing out the Mocking Thrushes, and adding the so-called 'family' Saxicolidæ. In this he is in accord with the views of several recent writers on the subject. The family Turdidæ, as thus restricted, he divides into two sub-families, viz., Turdinæ (sub-divided into the groups Sialieæ, Saxicoleæ, Turdeæ, Luscinieæ, and Meruleæ), and Myadestinæ (sub-divided into Platycichleæ and Myadesteæ). The group Sialieæ includes two genera,—*Ridgwayia* (gen. nov., type *Turdus pinicola* Scl.) and *Sialia*. The group Saxicoleæ

* Remarks on the Systematic Arrangement of the American Turdidæ. By Leonhard Stejneger. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1882, pp. 449-483, with numerous cuts. Feb. 13, 1883.

† Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum, Vol. V, 1881. (See review of this work in Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, VIII, pp. 99-104.)

is represented in North America by the single genus *Saxicola*, but includes the Old World genera *Pratincola*, *Ruticilla*, etc. The group Turdeæ includes the three genera *Hylocichla*, *Turdus*, and *Hesperocichla*. The group Luscineæ has for American representatives the genus *Catharus*, and possibly *Cyanecula*, which has been supposed to occur in Alaska. The Meruleæ includes *Merula*, *Semimerula*, *Cichlherminia*, and *Mimocichla*. The Platycichleæ includes *Cossyphopsis* (gen. nov., type *Turdus reevei* Lawr.), *Platycichla*, and *Turdampelis*. The Myadesteæ contains the single genus *Myadestes*, from which, however, *M. leucotis* (Tschudi) is removed, being transferred, as the type of a new genus *Entomodestes*, to the Ptilogonatidæ. As regards the much 'emended' name *Myadestes*, Dr. Stejneger revives Swainson's original orthography, which he maintains is correct.

The genus *Cichlherminia*, as Dr. Stejneger observes, has been regarded as an intermediate link between the true Thrushes and the Mocking Thrushes. But he affirms that this has resulted from the fact that very diverse species have been associated under *Cichlherminia* (vel *Margarops*), a part of which are true Thrushes and part Mocking Thrushes. *Cichlherminia* (type *C. herminieri*), in a restricted sense, is retained among the Turdinæ, while the other species, forming the restricted genus *Margarops*, are placed among the Miminæ, the former alone being found to have a booted tarsus.

Dr. Stejneger's synopsis of the family extends only to the genera and higher groups as represented in America. The generic synonymy is fully given, and the generic diagnoses are supplemented by general remarks and figures illustrative of the principal generic characters.—J. A. A.

Coues on the Structure of Birds' Ears.—Dr. Coues, in a series of three articles recently published in 'Science,'* gives a clear and detailed account of the mechanism of the ear in birds, taking the human ear as the chief basis of comparison. The articles are illustrated with figures—after Parker and Ibsen—which aid greatly to a clear conception of the structures described.—J. A. A.

Jeffries on the Epidermal System of Birds.†—Mr. Jeffries's paper, of nearly forty pages and three plates, reports the results of his studies of the epidermal appendages in birds, with reference to their structure, development, and homologies. These appendages embrace the feathers, scuta, claws, spurs, toe-pads, bill, combs, wattles, and the spines of the tongue and mouth, which have been studied as found in the adult, and their development traced from the fourth day of incubation. The structure of mature feathers is not considered, this part of the subject having already received so much attention. Mr. Jeffries's investigations have

* A Hearing of Birds' Ears. By Elliott Coues. Science, Vol. II, Nos. 34, 38, and 39, pp. 422-424, 552-554, 586-589, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 1883, figg. 9.

† The Epidermal System of Birds. By J. Amory Jeffries. Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXII, pp. 203-240, pll. iv-vi. Dec. 1883.